

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /152 W

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P R 091214Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6877

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USINT ALGIERS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USMISSION NATO

JUSMG/MAAG

16TH AF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MARR US SP XF

SUBJ: GOS STATEMENT ON US BASES AND MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

1. EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES" OCTOBER 8 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DATED NEW YORK SPECULATING ON ROLE US BASES IN SPAIN MIGHT PLAY IF US BECOMES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. ARTICLE RECALLS SUPPORTING ROLE OF US BASES IN 1958 LEBANON INTERVENTION, 1964 CONGO CRISIS, AND IN EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM MIDDLE EAST IN 1967 WAR, WHICH ARTICLE NOTES AUTHORIZED BY SPAIN "FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS." NOTING THAT US FORCES CANNOT USE BASES FOR OTHER THAN NORMAL PURPOSES WITHOUT SPANISH AUTHORIZATION, ARTICLE CLAIMS "PENTAGON CIRCLES" WOULD CONSIDER THAT IN ANY EVENTUAL GENERAL MEDITERRANEAN CRISIS, SPANISH BASES WOULD BE "MAGNIFICENT PLACE TO STATION TROOPS, STAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANES AND REGROUP FORCES."

2. ARTICLE ADDS THAT IN 1971 CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, PENTAGON OFFICIALS STATED THAT ONE OF CHIEF REASONS US MAINTAINS BASES IN SPAIN WAS THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF USING THEM IN MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL AND PETROLEUM INTERESTS. ARTICLE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "OBSERVERS" BELIEVE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE NO ASSISTANCE OF ANY SORT TO AMERICAN ARMED FORCES TO USE BASES IN CASE OF ISRAEL-ARAB CONFLICT.

3. SHORTLY AFTER ARTICLE'S APPEARANCE, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT) CALLED EMBOFF TO STATE THAT INFORMACIONES ARTICLE HAD PRECIPITATED NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PRESS QUESTIONS HERE AS WELL AS SOME REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM ARAB DIPLOMATS IN MADRID. AS RESULT, HE SAID, MFA WAS ISSUING CLARIFYING STATEMENT, WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS OCTOBER 9.

4. FULL TEXT OF MFA STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS: CERTAIN PRESS ORGANS HAVE SPECULATED ABOUT EVENTUAL USE OF SPANISH BASES BY US ARMED FORCES IN PRESUMED HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS ARISING FROM MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. OFFICE OF DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION EMPHASIZES THAT THE AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND US OF AUGUST 6, 1970, REFERS SOLELY TO CASES OF THREAT OR EXTERNAL ATTACK AGAINST SECURITY OF WEST. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO ENTITLEMENT BY US FORCES TO USE THE FACILITIES GRANTED IN SPANISH BASES IN A LOCAL CONFLICT SUCH AS THAT OF THE ARABS AND ISRAEL. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID05752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731044/aaaabfxx.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS STATEMENT ON US BASES AND MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, SP, XF, XI, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005